

Application No.: 09/973,878

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes, comprising:
  - a base film;
  - a ~~belt-like~~ reference band substantially fixed on said base film; and
  - a bonding tape adhering on said base film; ~~and,~~
  - ~~a cover film covering said bonding tape,~~wherein a straight reference face is provided ~~on a longitudinal side of~~ said reference band closely to said bonding tape.
2. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film is configured into a rectangular shape, and said reference band is positioned in parallel with one side of said base film.
3. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein the color of said reference band is different from that of said base film.
4. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film is transparent.

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5. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 4, wherein the color of said reference band is selected from the group consisting of black, red, blue, yellow, green, and white.
6. (Currently amended) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim ~~2~~ 35, wherein said reference band is thicker than said cover film.
7. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein a plurality of feed hole marks are provided between said reference band and said bonding tape on said base film, and said feed hole marks are arrayed at predetermined intervals so as to agree with feed holes of each carrier tape.
8. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein an edge mark is provided at a longitudinal center of said base film to indicate a portion corresponding to a cut face of each carrier tape.
9. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein a folding line is provided between two bonding tapes on said base film, and said folding line is parallel to said reference face of said reference band.
10. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 9, wherein said base film is configured into a rectangular shape, and a distance from said folding line to said reference face of reference

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band located near one side of said base film is longer than a distance from said folding line to an opposite side of said base film.

11. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 2, wherein a predetermined gap is provided between said reference band and one side of said base film.

12. (Currently amended) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim ~~2~~ 35, wherein said ~~base~~ cover film overhangs from ~~an opposite~~ a side of said base film far from said reference band.

13. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film and said bonding tape have the same size in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.

14. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film and said reference band have the same size in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.

15. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said base film has a size not shorter than 20 mm in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.

16. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein said bonding tape has a size not longer than 80 mm in a longitudinal direction of said reference band.

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17. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, wherein a plurality of carrying holes are provided on said carrier tape for accommodating parts, a top tape covers said carrying holes, and a transverse width of said bonding tape is narrower than that of said top tape.

18. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 17, wherein the transverse width of said bonding tape is not larger than 90% of the transverse width of said top tape.

19. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 17, wherein the color of said bonding tape is different from that of said carrier tape or said top tape.

20. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 19, wherein said bonding tape is semitransparent.

21. (Previously presented) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 17, wherein said bonding tape is transparent.

Claims 22-34 (Cancelled)

35. (New) The connecting member used for serially connecting two carrier tapes in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:  
a cover film covering said bonding tape.